



*CITY of SALFORD*

# CITY ART GALLERY

*PEEL PARK*



## LARK HILL PLACE

1904

*A description by Tony Ellis*

PRICE SIXPENCE

The material to be seen in "Lark Hill Place" has come from our store and a little has been purchased but a considerable amount has been presented by people interested in our work. The Salford Corporation Art Galleries, Museums and Libraries Committee expresses its warmest thanks to those donors and to all who have given advice and it cordially invites others to emulate them. We gratefully welcome any items of one-time everyday use, however simple, for such material, too often discarded, is of the greatest help in the illustration of different aspects of Social History.

This leaflet describes the Street at its half-completed stage. Another edition will be published after the completion of a Public House, a 17th Century House, a Toy Shop, a Printer's Shop, a Music Shop and a "Corner Shop." The arrangement of exhibits mentioned in this note may be varied during the period of construction.

Talks on "Lark Hill Place" and the City Art Gallery in general are given by the Keeper by arrangement. Post-card illustrations are obtainable from the attendants.

*A. Frape*  
*Director of Art Galleries and Museums*  
*April 1958*

### "LARK HILL PLACE"

Here in the Salford Art Gallery we have attempted to show, by means of this "street", aspects of Salford life and history over the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries. The street stands on the site of Lark Hill Mansion in which the Art Gallery, Museum and Library were founded in 1849. The mansion was built about 1796 by a Colonel James Ackers who was Colonel of the Manchester and Salford Volunteers during the war with Napoleonic France.

NUMBER 5 is the shop of John Hamer, Chemist and Druggist. Hamer took over the chemist's shop opposite Pendleton Church in 1860. The present shop of Hamer and Lewis is owned by Mr. Theodore Cox who has given many of the exhibits here. In the window are shown boxes of face ache pills, corn plasters, a tongue scraper, Balsamic Plasters ("As used in the Scutari Hospital" where Florence Nightingale did some of her finest work). The pyramid of crystals and the glass carboy filled with coloured water were part of the normal window-dressing-cum-advertising at one time to be seen in all chemists' windows. Also shown in the shop are jars and bottles from the shop of Newbold Stanyer who practised as a herbalist in Ellor Street, Salford. At the back of the shop is shown a set of blue and pink unguent jars which have been lent by Messrs. J. Wallwork of Tyldesley where John Hamer went to live after his retirement. The clock inside the shop was made in Salford by the firm of Bunyan & Gardner of Chapel Street about 1838.

Next door to the chemist's is the COTTON MILL of Sir Elkanah Armitage, Fustian, Tick and Nankeen Manufacturer. The mechanical power loom, which dates from about 1880, was presented by the present Armitage firm. Cotton printing is represented by the wooden blocks on the right, presented by Messrs. J. & J. M. Worrall of Ordsall Lane, Salford. On shelves and in the buffalo-hide skip are shown bobbins, shuttles and hanks of cotton which might be found in any cotton mill from the 18th Century up to the present day.

The house at NUMBER 3 is a reconstruction of a two-roomed cottage built about the middle of the 19th Century. Such houses had no mains water supply or sanitation. For water the occupier depended on a communal pump which served anything up to 200 families. One privy, usually of the bucket type, was often shared by twelve or more households. The cottage comprised a ground floor room in which the family ate, cooked and washed clothes, and a single bedroom above for the whole family, reached by means of a plank ladder. The iron fireplace is of about 1840 and has an oven on one side and a water boiler on the other. Above the fireplace hangs a photograph of the Salford Harriers dated 1885 (they were founded in 1884). The pottery dogs and figures, pieces of Goss china, pottery money box, and



the locally made glass paperweight were all usual features of cottage decoration. On either side of the fireplace hang a potato masher and a thible (porridge stirrer). From the ceiling hangs an onion put there to ward off disease and to act as an air purifier. By the side of the back door hangs a glass walking stick put there to attract to itself disease germs which could then be removed by careful dusting. On the chest of drawers is a huge family Bible and a pottery barm pot made at Clifton in 1887. On the table is a box iron which was heated by means of hot iron blocks put inside the iron through a "door" at the back. Another form of box iron rests on the polished steel fender. Above the table hangs a sword which was used at the Battle of Peterloo in Manchester in 1819.

A. C. Renk has his shop at NUMBER 1 where he practises as a pawnbroker and as a watch and clock maker. The firm of Renk was formerly in Chapel Street near Salford Station where business was carried on until 1956 as jewellers, watch and clock makers. They were never pawnbrokers but it has been necessary, through lack of space, to combine several types of shop in one. In the window are shown watches dating from the 17th to 19th Centuries, silver, china, glass and clothing. Also on show is an Edison phonograph made in 1904.

The house at NUMBER 2 has a front door dating from 1831 taken from the old rectory of Christ Church, Salford, which stood on the site of the Police Headquarters. The house inside is furnished in the style of the late 19th Century with furniture including an American organ of 1894, a whatnot, a marble topped cheffonier and great quantities of china, glass, stuffed birds and animals, shellwork, beadwork and woolwork. Everywhere is clutter, everywhere are dust-catching surfaces. Such houses were the expression of Victorian middle class wealth which had been created through increased industrial prosperity which in its turn had caused an enormous decline in the beauty of areas such as industrial South Lancashire.

NUMBER 4 is a reconstruction of a type of house built in Salford in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. It is furnished with mahogany furniture of the late 18th Century made by provincial craftsmen in the style of Thomas Chippendale. The instrument on the right is an early "square" piano made by Christopher Ganer in London in 1789. On the left hangs a portrait of Thomas Syddall, a Manchester barber who was beheaded for his support of the Young Pretender ("Bonny Prince Charlie") in the rebellion of 1745. On the right hangs a portrait of an unknown singer "Miss Kenworthy".

William Bracegirdle at NUMBER 6 was in business as a blacksmith and wheelwright in Ordsall Lane, Salford, in the late 19th Century. His dual purpose workshop here is furnished with material which had been used in connection with the horse drawn refuse carts formerly owned by the Salford

Cleansing Department. The forge is fitted with a hand operated bellows and tools used for working with iron, examples of which hang on the walls. Wheelwrighting is represented by tools, such as the adze, auger and rim mallet, and by finished and unfinished wheels.

At NUMBER 8 is the shop of Louisa Greenhalgh, Dressmaker, Milliner and Haberdasher, who set up shop in Bedford Street, Salford in 1843. Bow fronted shops of this type were not uncommon in Salford in the first half of the 19th Century but now only one remains opposite Salford Cathedral. The door of this shop, which is of solid mahogany, came from Hope Hall, Eccles Old Road, Salford. It was here that Robert Clive, later Lord Clive of India, spent a year of his childhood with his aunt Mrs. Bayley. Later the house became the property of the Armitage family whose cotton mill is opposite in the street. In the window of the dress shop are displayed a pair of grey cotton stockings worn by Queen Victoria, trimmings of beadwork, patchwork, tatting and lace. The costumes, shawls and parasols, together with other accessories, are changed periodically to give the public the opportunity of seeing as much of our growing costume collection as possible.

James Critchley, Clogger and Shoe Warehouseman, has his shop at NUMBER 10. In his workshop are shown the tools used in clog making. The three large knives hanging on the wall at the left (called stock knife, groover and gripper bit) were used to cut and shape the clog sole from rough wooden blocks (seen on the bottom shelf at the back of the shop) on the sole bench (at the left of the shop). On the bench on the right are the nailing and ironing hammers, one of which has two grooves worn in the handle by an awl and Mr. Critchley's thumb. Above the bench on the right is a kibosh used for smoothing the leather over the sole. All the tools have been presented by Mr. Critchley who still practises clogging in Whit Lane, Pendleton. In the side window is shown a selection of shoes which range in date from the 18th to the 20th Century. The 18th Century footwear (bottom shelf) includes the blue silk shoes of about 1760 which are fitted with leather overshoes or pattens used in wet weather to protect the shoe. One pair of shoes has its original gilt brass buckles while other silver and steel buckles are shown in the window. The 19th Century footwear, on the middle shelf, ranges from the pink calf dancing shoes, with "louis" heels, of about 1800, through the white satin shoes of the mid century to the black lace-up boots of the late century. On the top shelf are 20th Century shoes which range from the blue crepe-de-chine shoes of about 1925 to the silver kid pair of about 1935.

In the street are displayed two carriages of the late 19th Century. At the bottom of the street is a closed carriage called a Brougham which was formerly the property of Colonel O. O. Walker, Member of Parliament for Salford from 1877 to 1880. The other carriage is a Victoria which was



made for the Allen family of Manchester by the Manchester firm of Cock-shoot's. Also in the street is a Sedan Chair of about 1725 which is reputed to have been used by Miss Phoebe Byrom of Manchester, sister of John Byrom, the hymn writer and shorthand teacher. At the beginning of the street is a Fire Engine made in 1885 for use at Fulwood, near Preston. The engine has been kindly lent by the Lancashire County Council. Leaning against the clogger's shop is a knocker's-up stick used to waken millworkers before the days of cheap alarm clocks. Against the pawnbroker's shop leans a lamplighter's stick which was fitted with a small flare at the top for lighting street gas lamps. Also on show is a cast iron pillar box made in 1856 for Lichfield Street, Northampton. It is an example of the first type of public box used in the provinces and has been presented by the Postmaster-General.



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when a guide is available, and at other times by arrangement with  
the Keeper of that Museum.

*and to*

The "FRIENDS OF THE SALFORD MUSEUMS"  
Association whose members are closely associated with the  
development of the museums. Their meetings take the  
form of Period Entertainments, Talks on Costume, Music,  
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*Annual Subscription 5/-  
Details from A. Frape, Hon. Secretary/Treasurer  
"Friends of the Salford Museums" Association  
City Art Gallery, Peel Park  
Salford, 5*



*CITY of SALFORD*  
**ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS**

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CITY ART GALLERY, Peel Park. Phone: PENdleton 2649  
SCIENCE MUSEUM, Buile Hill Park. Phone: PENdleton 1832

OPEN

CITY ART GALLERY

WEEKDAYS 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (*5 p.m. in winter*) SUNDAYS 2 to 5 p.m.

SCIENCE MUSEUM

As above but closed on SUNDAYS

CLOSED

GOOD FRIDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY and  
NEW YEAR'S DAY

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*Talks by appointment*

*Loans available for Schools, etc.*

